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THE CROWN

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Some members of Redeemer's Green Team, led by Kira Langendoen

The Green Team Prepares The Soils of Change

JEREMY PARSONS
JUNIOR STAFF WRITER

Since the onset of this academic year, members of Redeemer's vibrant Green Team have been hard at work tilling the soils of environmental stewardship and education in our very own backyards here on campus. By minimizing the impact of the human footprint at Redeemer, they have sought to bring glory and praise to the Creator in a way that seems anything but conventional. Their service to Christ and to others involves a common cause of "roll-up-your-sleeves" kind of work aimed at improving the health of God's beautiful Creation. Green Teamers have consistently done good works by composting (every Thursday afternoon), by aiding in recycling and energy conservation efforts, and by raising the level of student awareness about the relevancy of environmental issues. Led by the direction and example of president Kira Langendoen, the Green Team has taken a practical approach to environmental leadership by reaching out on campus and digging deep to improve situations requiring a little touch of "green mending".

They have also hosted several social gatherings and events throughout the year, welcoming students from all frames of mind to join in both the celebrations and the concerns, as topics of local & global significance are discussed. In an effort to raise awareness of the power of acting locally, the Green Team is happy to introduce students and staff to a campus-wide Environmental Week taking place from March 1st to March 8th 2008. They hope to encourage the Redeemer community to improve their lifestyles and to take into account the multifaceted effect that each of us has on our fragile environment. The ultimate goal is to encourage individuals to witness the wonders of God's Creation while working towards a mindset that allows positive improvements to be sought. Here are some of the exciting upcoming events and initiatives planned by the Green Team this semester:

N.B. – The Green Team would like to invite any and all members of the Redeemer community to participate in these events, we all have a part to play in making a difference.

The "Lug a Mug" Campaign: encouraging Redeemerites to use their favourite reusable mugs when buying beverages at William's Coffee Pub & the Grill. A draw will be launched where you'll get a ticket for a prize ballot if you buy a coffee in your own mug.

The 2008 **Upwind Downwind Conference on Air Quality** in Hamilton on Mon. Feb. 25, 2008. The event features a **Clean Air Exhibition Show** from 12:00pm to 7:00pm and a Free Public Talk at 7:00pm by Gil Penalosa on Walking and Bicycling: Creating a Great Healthy City of Hamilton.

For more on the Green Team, see page 4!

Environmental Week
March 1 to March 8

Sun. March 1 –
Green Team Hike (all students are invited!)
Mon. March 2 –
Environmental Displays by exhibitors such as Environment Hamilton
Tues. March 3 –
Movie Showcase (details to follow)
Wed. March 4 –
Green Team Chapel focusing on the wonder found in God's Creation
Thurs. March 5 –
Local Farm Trip to discover the workings an organic farm in the area
Fri. March 6 –
Draw of "Lug a Mug" Campaign prize
Sat. March 7 –
Recycling Plant Tour uncovering "what really happens to our recycle"
Sun. March 9 –
Braden EcoHouse Tour to see cutting-edge environmental technology
Earth Hour – Saturday March 29 from 8:00pm to 9:00pm.
It's a global initiative to witness the positive effect of "going dark"; turning off all man-made light sources during a one-hour period to raise awareness of the need to reduce electricity consumption and light pollution.

What Does It Mean to Have "Christian" and "Education" Together?

IAN VAN HARTEN
SPEICAL TO THE CROWN

Sometimes I feel that attending a Christian school is like watching a censored movie that bleeps out the curse words and all the gory parts.

There is this widespread stereotype attached to Christians: they believe in something far too fantastical and unrealistic, they do not swear, they do not drink, they do not do drugs, they do not watch R-rated movies, and they do not believe in evolution. And there is reason for this stereotype. There are Christians who think that abstaining from the above listed things is important to living a Christian life. And they also believe that engaging in those things means that one is straying from the Christian faith.

I think that maybe the example of the censored movie does not serve as well as I thought, because even if you bleep out the swear words, you can still follow the plot of the movie. And with some of the things we are closing our eyes to, I think we are missing the plot.

Back before the Christmas break, a student's art show was removed because it showed nakedness. I recently heard that in the world of art, nudity is highly respected and praised. The human body is regarded as the centerpiece of creation; it is the image of God. I find it strange that Redeemer would choose not to display that.

I also attended the pornography discussion where we learned that there is a negative correlation between the circulation of pornography and violence against women. This means that the increase in pornography in many countries has led to the decrease in rape and other crimes against women. The speaker was not arguing from a perspective that upheld the traditional Christian values in terms of pornography, but he was informing us of the importance in not condemning, judging, or forcing shame on someone involved in something like that. Many students were up in arms because of his compromising what they saw as the sinful nature of porn, and they refused to even consider his idea.

All this had me questioning the meaning of a Christian education and why this kind of intolerance exists within it.

First of all, the role of a university is not solely to prepare students for a certain field of work. It is a place for growth and for gaining an understanding of the world. It is a place where students open up to new ideas and can explore different ways of thinking. University should not necessarily be about fortifying and upholding the beliefs you enter with; rather, university should challenge your thinking, encourage you to look at the world differently, and cause you to consider points of view different from your own.

With that in mind, let's consider Christianity. Christianity, of course, refers to the following of Christ and his teaching. When I think of Jesus, I cannot help but remember his many commandments to love. A prime example is seen in John 15 when Jesus gives his final message to the disciples. In it, he emphasizes the essentials of his commandment for them in the clearest and simplest way possible: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." Jesus lived as an example of what it means to follow him by healing and helping the poor and by protecting people whom the Pharisees were condemning because of their sin.

Ideally, Christianity and education should come together perfectly. What better way to show love for God and for others than by learning all about God's world and understanding the different people in it. We can evaluate the ideas of others and see the truths in them and openly discuss the many issues in the world.

However, as with most things, the ideal does not match the reality. Instead of being open to different subjects, we choose not to look at certain paintings or pictures, and we react emotionally to ideas that do not correspond with our belief about Christianity as if they were an attack on our faith.

I think we should allow ourselves to discuss and engage all topics and points of view intellectually and without fear of straying from our faith. God gave us all reasoning and discerning minds not as some obstacle obstructing our focus on him, but as a way of engaging in our questions about him and about the world. If the Bible already told us all that we need to know, then there would be no point in going to school at all.

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COMMENTARY

Lest We Forget

What is Love?

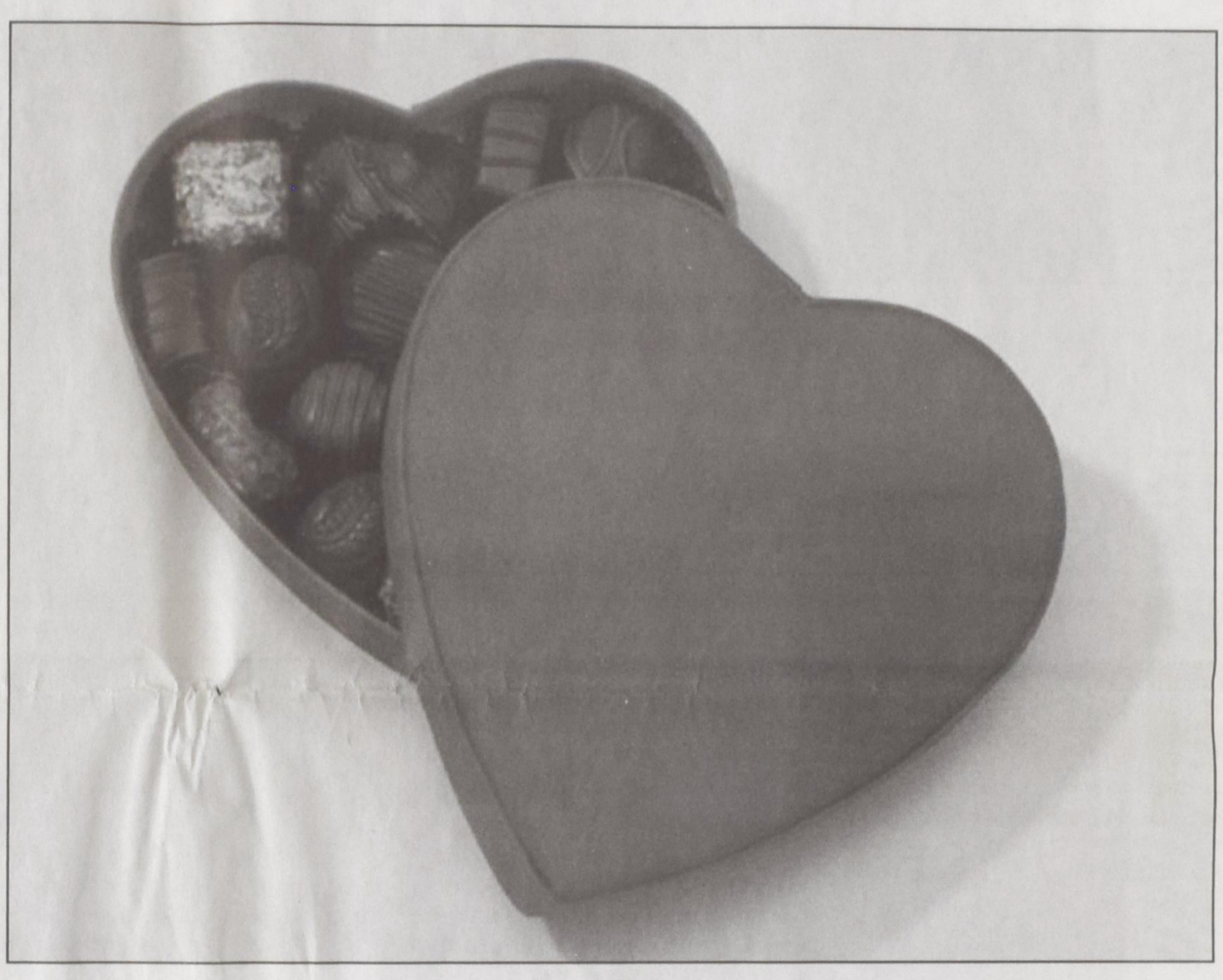
JEFF EXTNER
SPECIAL TO THE CROWN

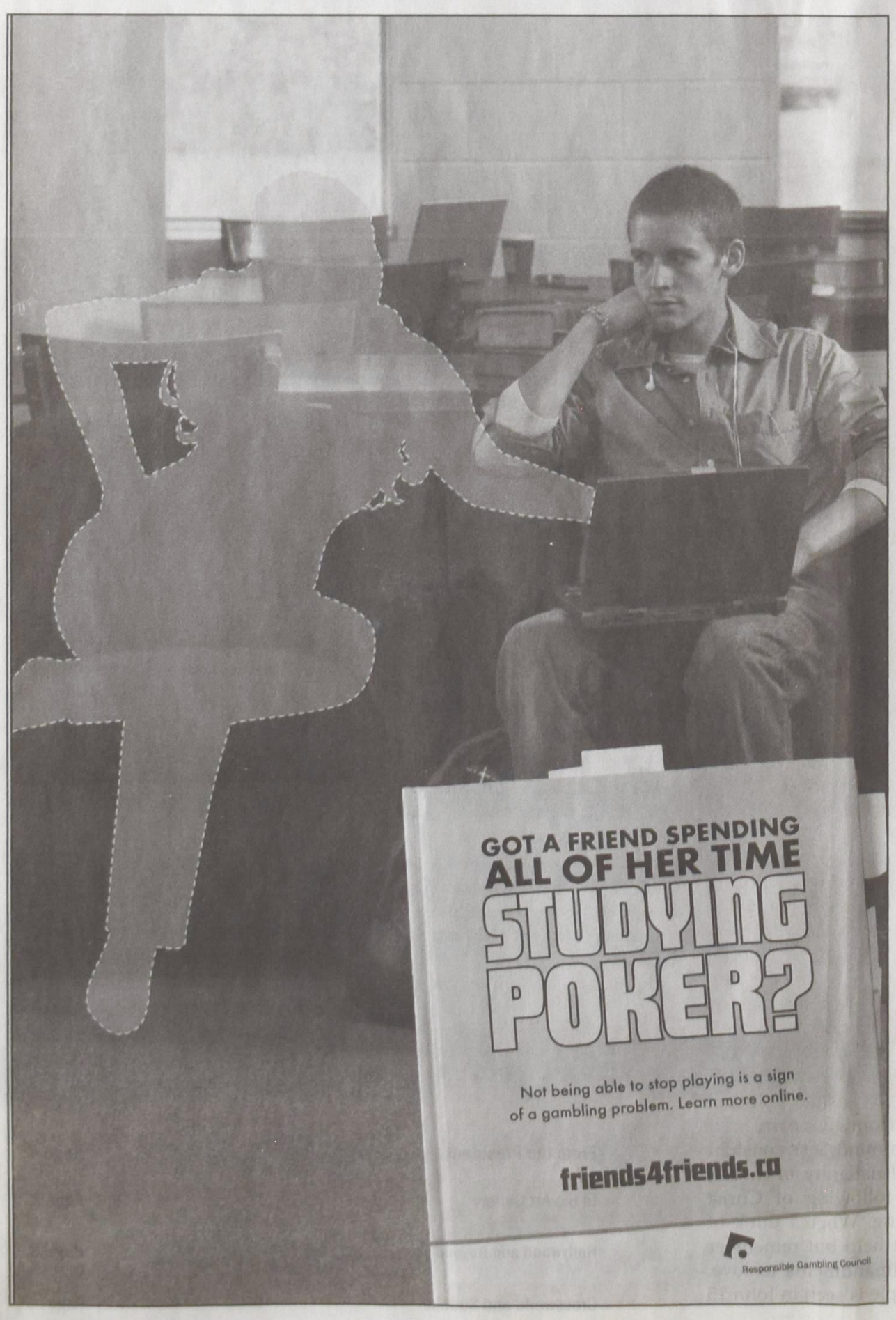
What is love? Of the twelve to thirteen people I asked, the response invariably was: "It depends". The answer apparently then depends on the type of love being referred to; the love between friends or colleagues, between parent and child, and of course between a man and a woman. The answer: "It depends on the type of love you mean," seems the safest, doesn't it? But it makes me wonder how Jesus would respond to the question. Would he "hum" and "haw" over it then respond with an "it depends"? I believe that the answer to "what is love?" is far simpler than an "it depends".

The apostle Paul says of Love that, "Love is patient, Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (1 Cor 13:4-7) Elsewhere Paul says: "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law." (Rom 13:8) Paul would definitely not answer this question with an "it depends", and most definitely, Jesus would not either. "Faith, hope, and love," Paul says, "But the greatest of these is Love". When a Pharisee asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was, he replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22: 37-40).

So now, what is Love? Love, then, becomes the most important thing, the one thing that can cure all of the world's problems. The Beatles will remind us that "Love is all you need", just as Lenny Kravitz would tell us "You've got to let love rule", and for Christians we have God incarnate telling us to love our neighbors, our enemies, and God as the most important duties we have here on earth. This charge has been and will continue to be given to all of humanity: love, the most excellent way, is the only way. If I see you in the halls and wave, and you snub me, to love you is not to remember you did so and make a mental note of it. To love your enemy is not to delight in doing or seeing evil and wicked things befall him or her. Christianity has such a bad reputation in the world, especially on the western hemisphere, because we all, as Christians, past, present, and future have apparently forgotten this charge. It could be, that most of the hearts are growing cold the more we forget. How can we be light to the world without love? How can we live as light if we only love those who love us? Jesus had words to say about that kind of love if you recall. What would the world look like had the United States responded to the attack on September 11, 2001, instead of with a heavy-hand, full of force and missiles; but with peace, brotherhood, and love? I am told, by many, that such an approach would be naïve. I wonder if Jesus would agree?

So does the answer still "depend"? Well, love is (hopefully) expressed fundamentally different between a man and a woman than it is between friends. There is a complete union between physical and spiritual at stake in the process of choosing a mate, that is, indeed if there is a choice we humans can make in the matter (in the Song of Songs, she says, "Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires." 2: 7). My parents were divorced when I was nine, growing up, my best friend's parents divorced when he was 10. I am friends with people going through divorce, and I know still more who are in marriages/ relationships that are not exactly what they would call ideal. This answer, "it depends" fits very nicely into a world where people fall in love for every reason other than to be in love. An example, perhaps, of awakening love before it so desires? Perhaps it is something else, I, myself don't have many answers concerning this. Rob Bell, a most excellent teacher, speaks far more fluently on the subject of relational love than I do in his book Sex.God, as well as in a video that can be found on the internet called Nooma – Flame. If you're curious I suggest you look into either. I submit this merely for your consideration, as Valentine's day comes and goes (upon reading this it'll have been long gone). Consider what Love is, how it is enacted in your life, if at all, then ask whether or not you'd answer such a question with an "it depends".





Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

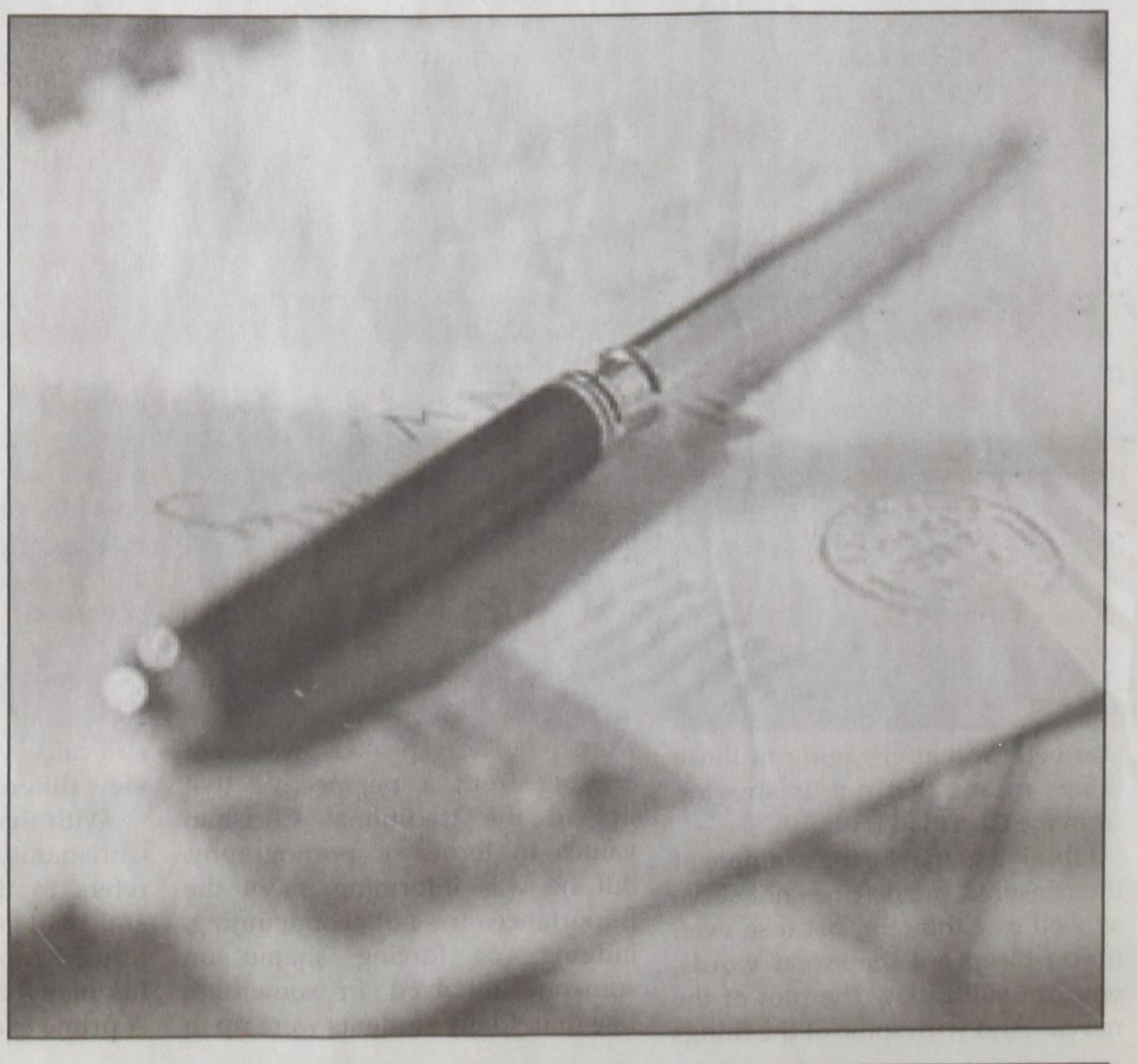
As a Redeemer student, I usually read the Crown when it is published throughout the academic year. I have usually enjoyed reading articles written by the Redeemer community about various issues within and outside of the Redeemer community.

However, in the last few issues of the Crown, I can't help but notice that several anonymous letters to the editor have been published. This is something that would never occur in another newspaper such as the Spectator, the Star, or the like.

Publishing an editorial with a name allows for more accountability and opens up more possibilities for dialogue. If students wish to write letters to the editor and desire to share their opinions on an issue, why should they be so hesitant to have their names associated with their opinions? If an opinion is valid and defensible, there should be no reason for a person not to include their name with it. This is not meant to dissuade people from writing editorials, but I hope that the Crown will be able to rectify this situation in future issues. Thank-you,

Jonathan Van Schepen

Soli Deo Gloria



Getting the Most Out of Your Reading Break

JULIE KONYNDYK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's here. I know, I can hardly believe it myself. Reading Breaks always seems to sneak up on us. Yet at the same time, if they didn't come when they did, I think many of us might have collapsed in the middle of the Caf. The days prior to the break are of course booked full, with papers, presentations and all that's in between. We either run on empty, or on a steady diet of coffee and whatever we have lying around the cupboard. We type, turn-it-in, tally up our grade points and try to stay awake.

Then, just when it seems it might all unravel, it's Friday. And finally, we are given leave to relax, replenish, and read.

It's not always that easy though, is it? With our brains as wired and they are tired sometimes it's nearly impossible to flick the switch from "work, to meet a deadline" to "work, to be productive". How do you get into to the proper "Reading Break" headspace? Is there such a thing? If so, can you be prolific, while also allowing yourself sometime to put your feet up? Well, I certainly hope so.

With the help of some friends, I've compiled what seem to be the definitive answers on how to get the most out of your break. Hopefully, they resonate with you, and perhaps even sit well with some of the faculty. Here they are.

5. Do something fun.
Or better yet, do something out of the ordinary. "What? Why, this is a break FOR reading, not from it!" you say. Yes, that is of course true. But that doesn't mean you can't have your cake, and eat it too. Let's be honest, professors make a point of asking their students if they have anything exciting planned. So before you hit the books, *do* something exciting.

4. Make some money.
That claim may seem rather ambiguous, and much too practical, but it appears many of us are well aware that those summer jobs are just begging to be revisited for a few short days. Why should we return to grueling mindless labour sooner than we have to? The answer is simple: After one or two days of work, you'll remember why you're a student, and be that much happier to return to school.

3. Go home.
Or at least phone home. Or send your mother a postcard, reminding her of your healthy existence. She'll appreciate it, you'll feel good about it, and it will give you a head start in the campaign for that second semester care package.

2. Do some homework.
Again, this may not be the most immediately appealing suggestion. But this break provides students with a gift we don't get any other time in the year – we have some time to sit and *think* about our work before we do it. For instance, that twelve page paper waiting for you when you return won't seem quite as intimidating if you use your break as time to let a thesis sit for a while. Change your mind, do some research. Change your mind again, and *think* about it. It's really quite a treat. And if you're on the road for the majority of the break, nothing quite compliments an interesting text more than a lengthy car ride.

1. If you can, make the most of this opportunity. Do something with this week that will have a lasting impact on your life, and stay with you long after the break is over. Grow a little if you can. Define your direction for the second half of the semester, and go from there.

To recap, in order to make the most of these precious days, try to: have fun, make money, call Mom, do homework, and *grow*.

Well, if you manage to do all these things, kudos to you. Your break may not be all that relaxing, but I can guarantee it will be rewarding.

THE CROWN

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This Cult of Ours

CHRISTOPHER J. KEEFER

Here's a topic for casual conversation: what is the main similarity between Charles Manson, David Koresh and Jesus Christ? Of course, when I say casual conversation, I mean the sort you fully expect to end in raised eyebrows, if not raised voices – or fists. But if you're feeling brave enough to press on, the next sentence is simple enough. Here it goes: they were all leaders and founders of cults.

I was over at a friend's dorm recently, and he shared with me the good news that his church felt secure enough to start reaching out into the community. Despite my agreeing with him that his church would likely have a more difficult time in attracting the have-it-alls of their wealthy neighbourhood then they might have had ministering to the homeless, I was pleased to hear that the church was willing to blaze new territory, as it were.

That is, until he explained the approach they were taking. Inviting the neighbourhood kids over for a good time, he said. Just getting them in the church building, having fun and eating and stuff. Just general hanging out.

Ah. So, it's just like what you could be doing at the mall, or a movie theatre, or in an arcade. Only in church. Just general hanging out. Pizza and the Passion go so well together, don't they?

Don't get me wrong – I have no problem with a bunch of devoted Christian friends getting together in their church and sharing food and laughter. Maybe a quick relay pew-hopping race – my advice is to avoid knocking your shins against a pew (swearing in church is definitely a sin). The fact of the matter, though, is that afterwards, those friends will stop goofing off and pray their hearts out to a God they seek so passionately to know, because that's what they really came for. What is it a kid invited for food and fun is really seeking in church?

We Christians seem to spend a lot of time trying to pretend to the world – and, sometimes, ourselves – that we're normal. Yeah, we may worship this invisible God... but hey, we eat the same stuff you do, go to the same places you do, do the things you do... we're just like everybody else. Indeed – that's the problem.

Jesus wasn't like everybody else. His teachings were incredibly radical to the people of Israel, as was his lifestyle. He didn't fast every week, or command his disciples to fast, as did the Pharisees and their students. He consorted with the scum of society, and he turned their understanding of the laws of Moses – hundreds of years of accumulated rabbinic interpretation – on their heads.

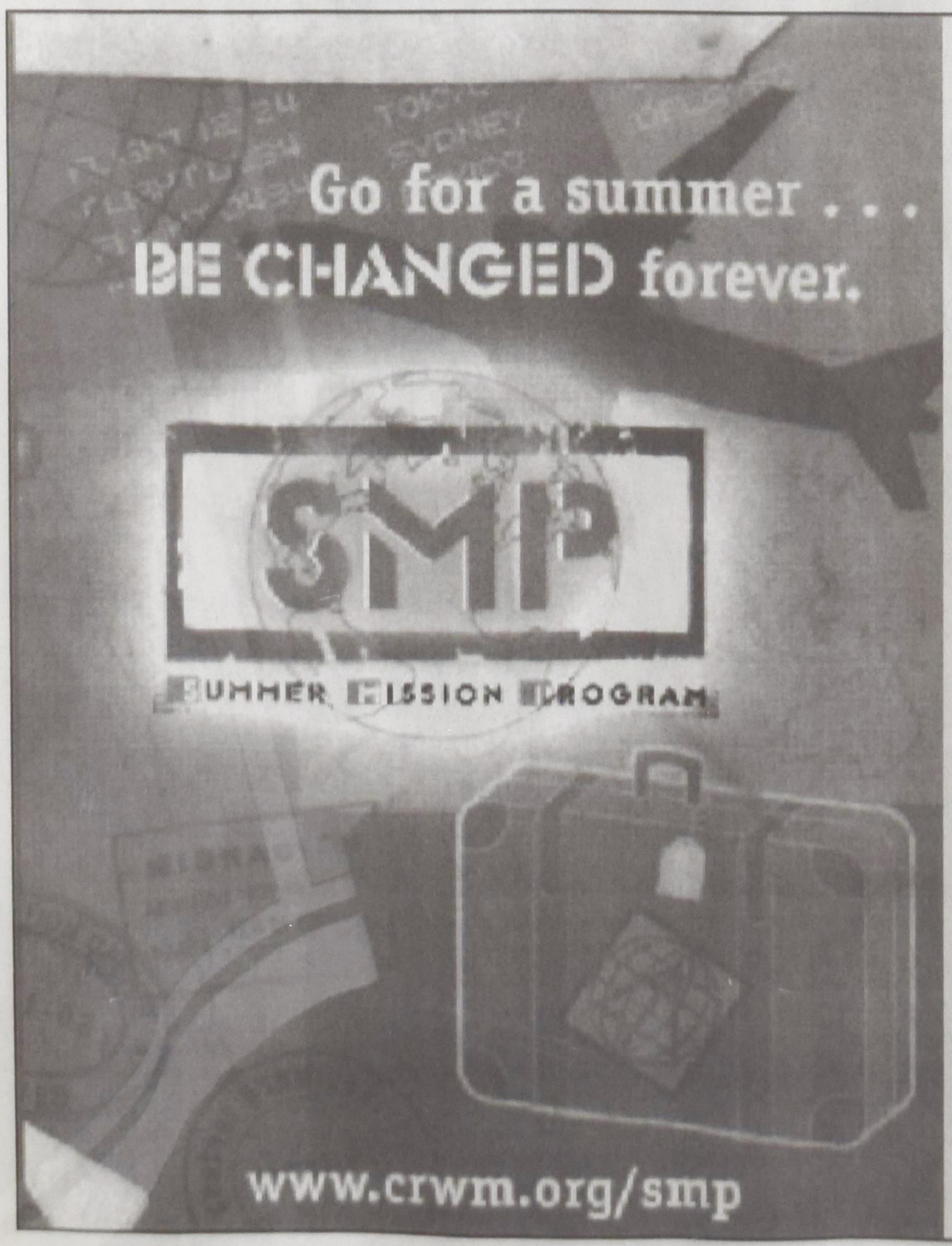
"Love your enemy? What happened to an eye for an eye?"

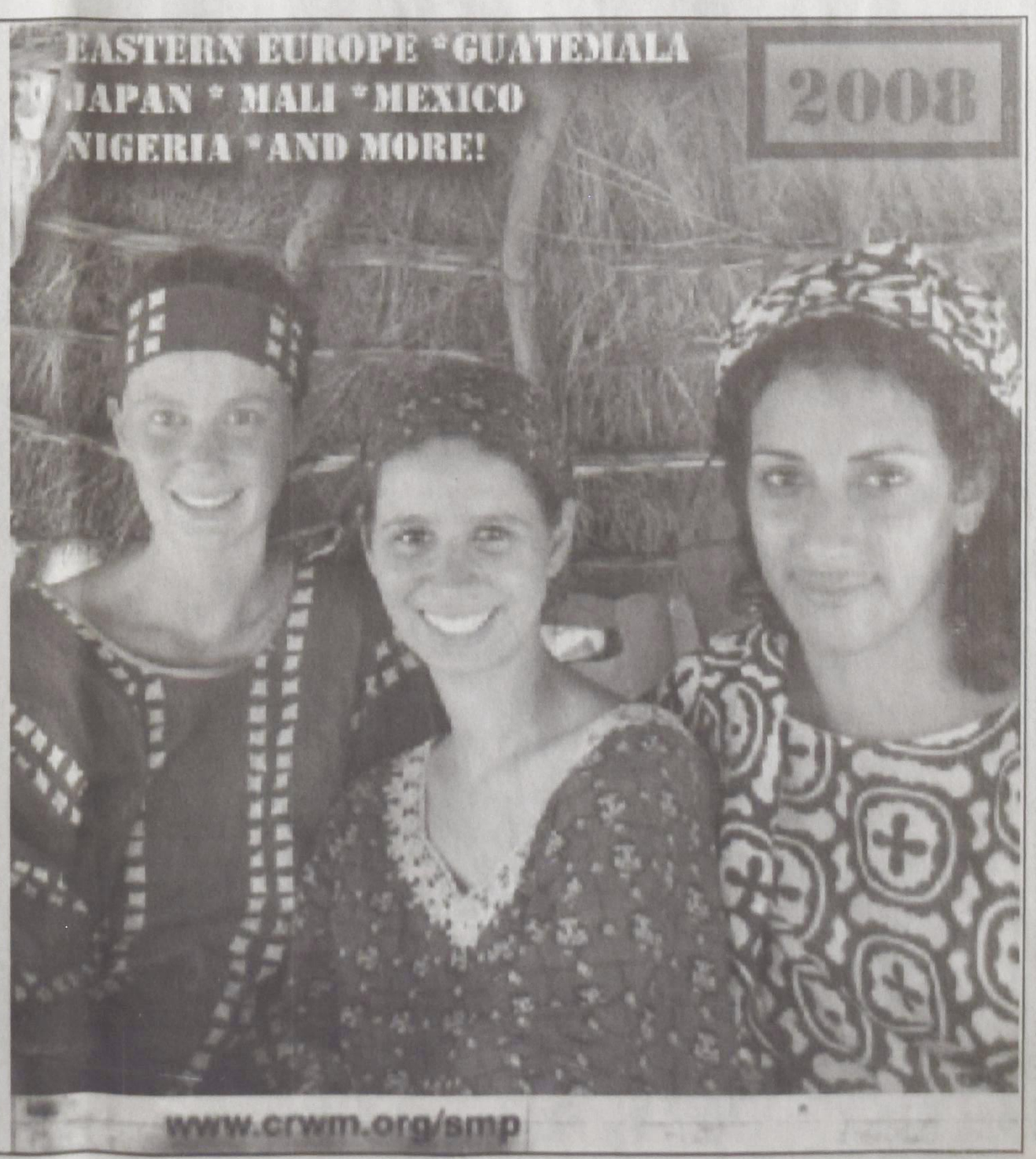
"Talking to Samaritans? And a woman, no less! Who is this weirdo?"

His followers weren't just like everybody else, either. Indeed, they were a cult on the fringes of society, known as The Way, and were viewed with the same suspicion and scorn we generally visit upon cults of today. They were communists. They had non-standard interpretations of scripture. They practiced this odd ritual in which they claimed they were eating and drinking the body of their leader. They were pretty darn weird. And yet, their numbers grew enormously in a very short time. The good message of the gospel spread to the four corners of the earth, just as God said it would, and everywhere it went there were converts by the hundreds and the thousands. There was something about how different it was that attracted people, how each of them were to be in the world, but not of it...

That's what the church has lost, I think – each of us called to live so radically different from the world around us that no one has to ask whether we're Christians. But that's what we are called to be – need to be, in order to be salt and light for the world. This world is desperately seeking something different – that's why so many North Americans are reading the Koran these days, why new-age mysticism has enjoyed such popularity, why neo-paganism is surging. They're seeking a world that doesn't apologize for being strange, indefinable, mystic, and for a God who isn't easy to explain, impossible to comprehend, but who can be known. They are looking for so much more than pizza.

It would be uncomfortable, though, there's no doubt about that. The first century Christians had things more painful than just scorn rained down upon them. Conformity is simpler, easier – and then we can get on with our lives, and keep our God to ourselves. Oh, and maybe we could invite some people to our church – just for food and some games, you know, nothing weird or mystic. Nothing too out of the ordinary. Nothing, you know, *cultish*.





Club Spotlight
The Green Team

How long has the Green Team been around?

I'm not sure how long Green Team has been around- at least 6 years because that's how long the compost buckets lasted.

How often do you meet?

We meet every Friday usually, just to touch base and to plan future projects, share ideas and just build community by getting to know each other.

What are your goals for the year and vision for the school?

Our goals for this year are to continue trying to change people's mindsets. I believe that this culture is changing to be more aware of the environment, with "green" bags and hybrid cars etc. This school is changing too, but we're changing not to jump on this cultural bandwagon, but in realization of our Christian call to stewardship. The Green Team is focused on spreading Christian environmental responsibility. We encourage people to compost, to recycle, to use reusable dishes etc. as a way to respect the Creation and to tend it, caring for it.

How can students participate?

Students can participate by coming to our Friday meetings: on the couches outside Rm 214 at Activity period. To receive updates and news they can email greenerRUC@gmail.ca to be put on the email list. Or they can talk to any of the members directly.

What projects are currently on the go?

Some of the projects that we are involved in: Enviro-movies (to raise people's awareness of environmental issues, and even the wonder of creation- e.g. Planet Earth series), campus cleanups and community cleanups (thanks to generous donations of cleaning supplies by two local Home Hardware businesses), compost collection- in dorms and in the Market, collection and recycling of batteries and ink cartridges, and promotion of Fair Trade coffee. We're planning a chapel and an environmental awareness week. Just recently we went to a totally environmentally friendly home in the Hamilton area.

Who are your members?

We have many "members" on the email list, but some stand out as active Green Team-ers: ShariAnn Kuipers, Jody Vandorp, Carrie Vandorp, Ruth Neiwenhuis, Janis Ottenvagers, Josh Salverda, Andrew Hibma, Kelsey Hunter, Brianne Fennema, Jeremy Parsons, Miriam Vandenberg, Julie Kikkert, Rachel Bokma. These people come from different programs creating a diverse group of participants who have different perspectives on issues. Together great ideas are come up with and acted upon using everyone's different gifts such as communicating to others, organizing, creating beautiful posters, and just plain thinking outside the box for new ways that we can reach out to students.

Redeemer Revises the Policy on "Promoting Respect of Persons"
Administration Seeks Student Feedback

JULIE KONYNDYK
EDITOR-IN-CHIF

A message from the desk of President Cooper found itself among the many emails Redeemer students sift through on a daily basis. While many students simply check their inbox to look for class cancellations or notice of a snow day, this was an email worth noting. Just recently, Redeemer finished revisions on it's "Policy on Promoting Respect of Persons", which was created in an attempt to update the "Policy and Procedures on Sexual/Gender Harassment". This document attests to the fact that Redeemer is always seeking to stay current in regards to human rights legislations, as well as continue to redefine its own internal vision. It's very important for students to be involved in this process, and aware of their own rights. In this regard, this document is well worth taking some time to look through.

As listed in Part 1.E, the main objectives of the policy are as follows:

To maintain a working environment free from harassment and discrimination, in which members of the university community treat each other with mutual respect;

To alert all members of the university community to the fact that harassment and discrimination are demeaning practices that constitute a profound affront to the dignity of the person;

To set out the types of behaviour that may be considered offensive and which will not be tolerated by the University;

To establish a mechanism for receiving complaints of harassment and discrimination and to provide a procedure by which the University will deal with these complaints;

To outline the preventative, remedial and disciplinary actions that may be taken when a complaint of harassment or discrimination has been brought forward or substantiated.

In a more specific sense, this new policy comments on our place in a world waiting to be fully restored in Christ and our calling to create a world that is free of discrimination and harassment. It also lays out how the institution defines "Respect", "Discrimination" and "Harassment", and then provides Redeemer's statement against it. This is only the very beginning of the information provided by the document. Complaint procedures, applicability and the appeal process are all discussed at length.

The administration is looking for student feedback and comments on the document. The full policy can be found on Moodle, under the miscellaneous section. Direct any comments you have to the Redeemer Student Senate.

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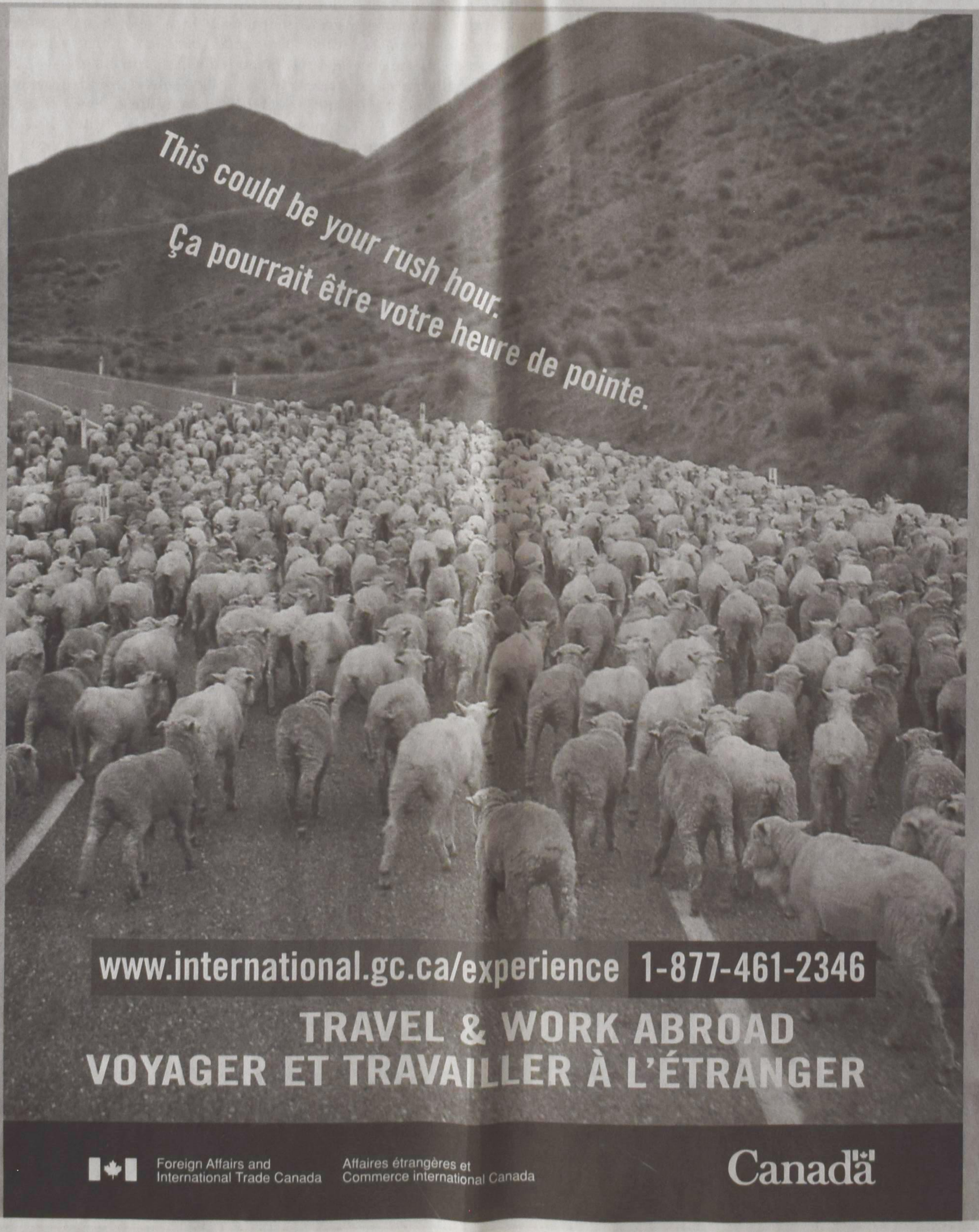

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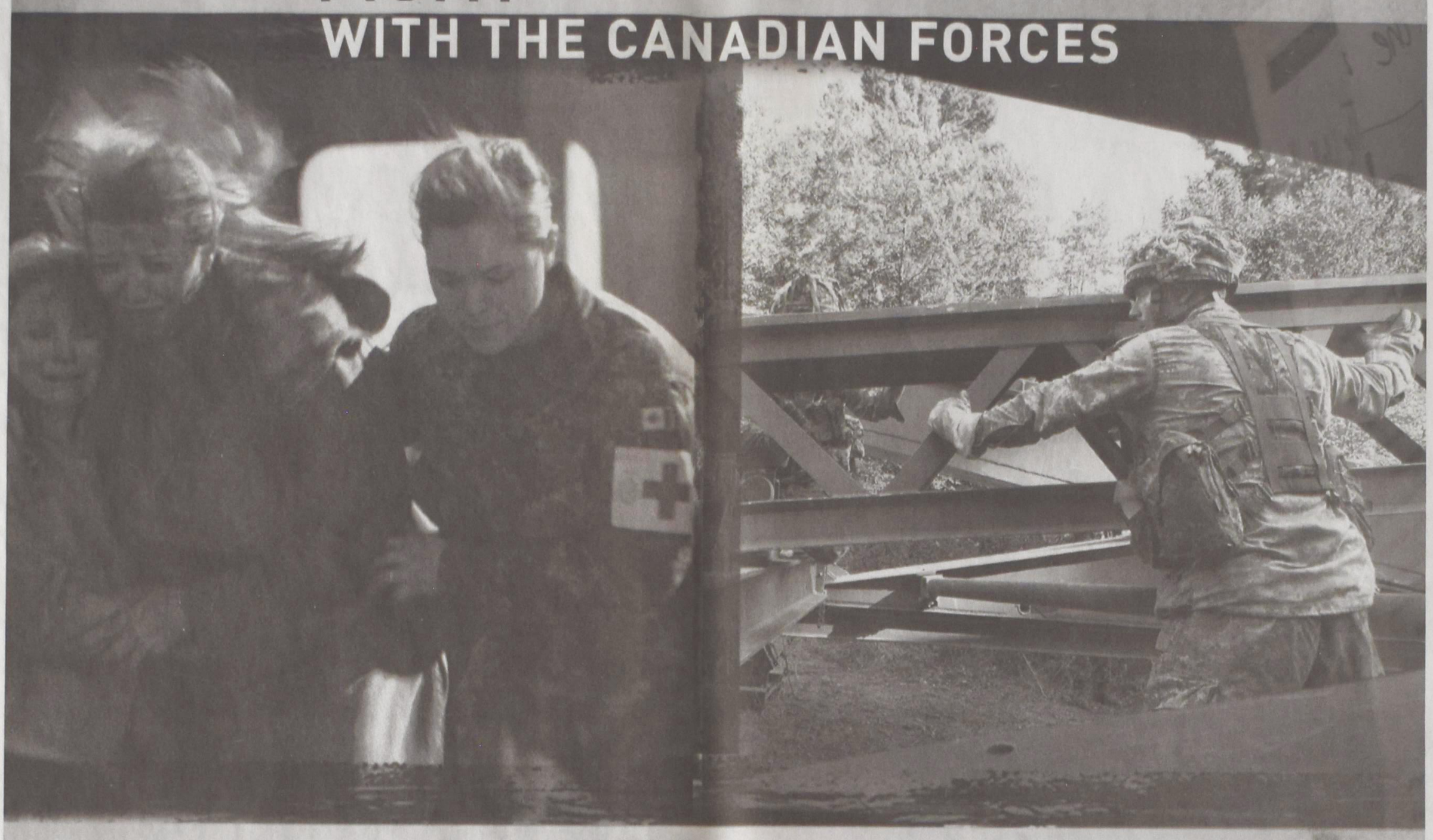

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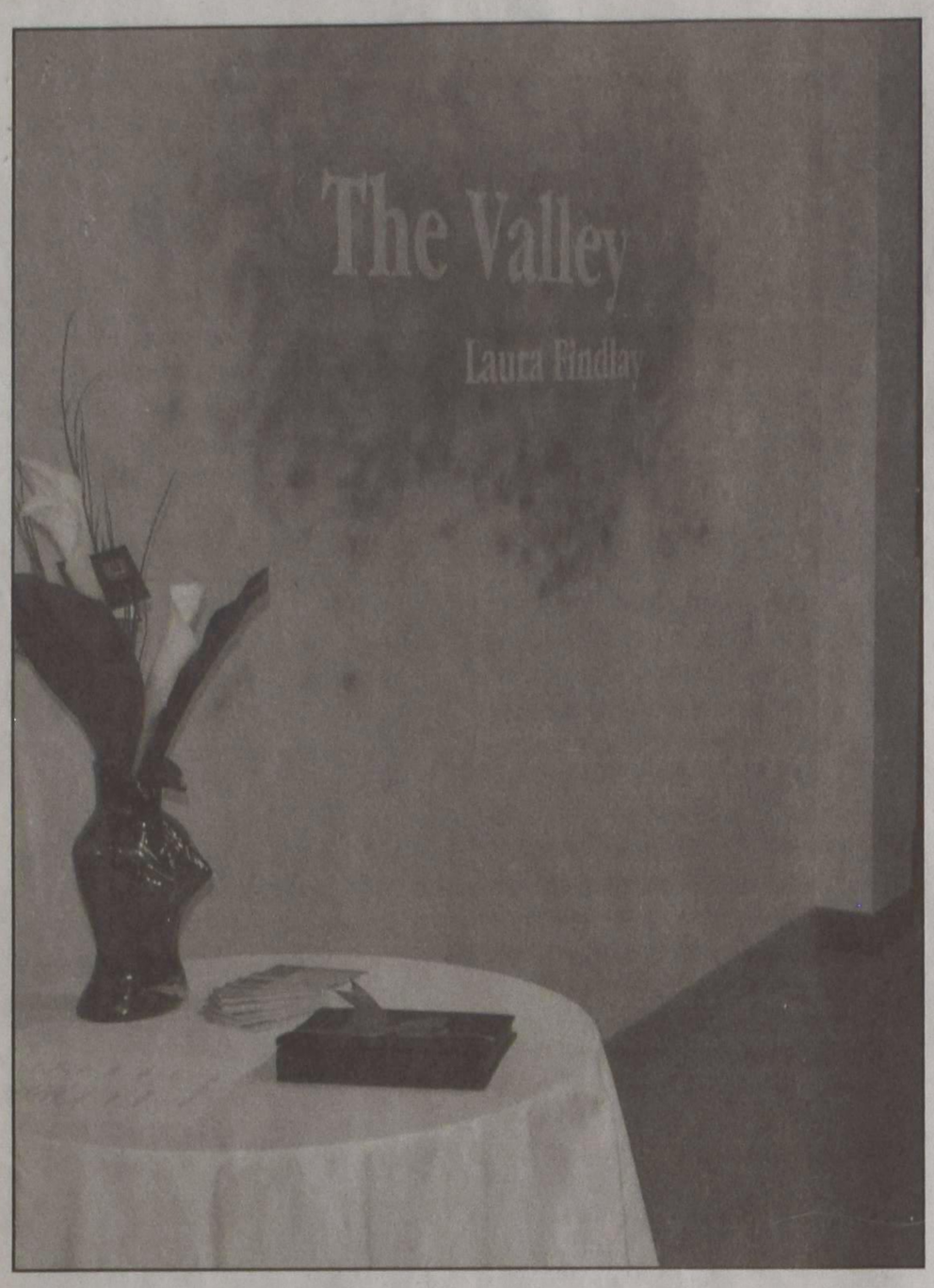
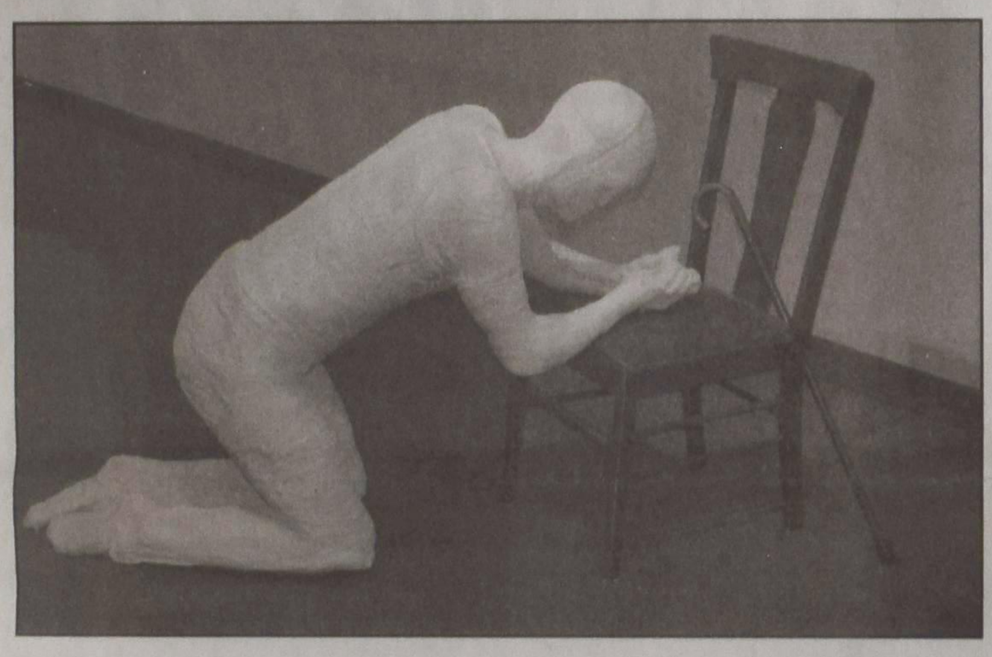
Canada

What's Happening in the Art Gallery: "The Valley"





Art Gallery Exhibits

Join us in the coming months as Redeemer will be displaying the creativity of a bevy of gifted artists.

Laura Findlay's The Valley (pictured on the right) will be presented February 1 to February 23, and United Collection by Jeremy Winger will be displayed from February 28 to March 12. Redeemer University College Faculty Exhibition will be from March 14-April 2, and the Spring Senior Student Exhibition from April 4-April 25. Mark these dates, as you won't want to miss these talented showcases!

Poetry Readings

On selected Thursdays, Canada Council Poetry Readings will be held in the Boardroom from 4:30-6:30 pm. Admission is free!

Lee Maracle, a Native Canadian voice, is welcomed on April 3. She is a visiting professor at the Univeristy of Toronto, and also Writer in Residence at the University of Guelph. She teaches courses on creative writing and indigenous thought and expression.

Where is Redeemer's Sense of Nationalsim, Patriotism, Honour and Respect for Sacrifice?

MATTHEW E. CASEY
SECRETARY GENERAL OF RUNT

When you walk through the first floor of Redeemer you can glance out the pane glass windows and see the serenity of God's beautiful creation. Beyond those windows, above our private institution, flies a red and white maple leaf, standing tall for all to see. But it is not just a mere piece of cloth representing our identity as a nation, that flag represents our glorious Christian past and foundations, our bright and present future and our hope for a tomorrow. That flag represents the Plains of Abraham, Lundy's Lane, Queenston Heights, The Boers of South Africa, Neuve Chapelle, Ypres, Flanders, Somme, Verdun, Vimy, Passchendaele, Arras, Amiens, Cambri, Hong Kong, Dieppe, Sicily, Rome, Ortona, Juno, Gold, Sword, Normandy, Caen, Falaise, Saint-Lambert-sur-Dire, Antwerp, Paris, Netherlands, Amsterdam, Nijmegen, Arnhem, The Rhine, Germany, The Congo, Hill 444, Hill 532, Kap'yong, Chail-li, Hill 166, Hill 277, Hill 355, The Suez Crisis, The Gulf, Bosnia-Croatia-Serbia-Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Kosovo, Kabul, Kandahar, Panjwaii and Zhari. That flag represents the 277 who died in the Boer War, the 64,944 in World War I, the 45,300 in WWII, the 516 in Korea, the 115 on Peacekeeping and the 78 in Afghanistan, all who died for our Peace, Freedom, and Security. The reason why our maple leaf has two vertical bars of red is not to represent sea to sea but to represent the men and one woman of our Canadian Armed Forces who died for you and me. It represents those who died so we can fly a flag and attend this private Christian educational institution.

The reason why I am writing article is to give you one opinion that I consider to be cold hard fact: that flag flying outside of this building should not only be lowered for the death of students but for every single man and woman who dies for this country protecting our right to Christian education. Since I became a member of the Redeemer community, never have I seen once the administration and staff honouring our soldiers who die by lowering the flag to half mast. Since I have been here at Redeemer eight Canadian soldiers have paid the ultimate sacrifice and not once, not once have the security personnel and administration of this school lowered that flag to half mast and properly with a sense of sacrifice and human dignity mourn our heroes. It is a joy and honour for our school to have a memorial for the holocaust but don't you think we should also be remembering those trying to prevent another? Is it just me or am I the only one on this campus that actually holds a sense of Canadian nationalism and patriotism by supporting our men and women in uniform helping the people of Afghanistan.

Where I come from, Durham Region and Oshawa, we actually participated and help found the Red Friday movement, for those who don't know what that is shame on you. In my region, highway 401 does not exist, because its name has been changed to the Highway of Heroes. In my region, we aren't afraid of wearing poppies 365 days a year or a support the troops pin. In my region, firefighters, police officers, and normal everyday citizens line the bridges over the Highway of Heroes, and as the hearses carrying the bodies of those who died in the service of peace pass by, they sound their sirens and salute our Canadian heroes. In my region, when we see a veteran we thank them for saving our lives. In my region, we actually care for and support our members of the Armed Forces. Is it just me or does Redeemer University College lack a sense of patriotism, nationalism, honour and respect for sacrifice? About a little over a month ago I approached the security of Redeemer and asked why our flag was not half mast for the Canadian soldiers who passed away. I was disgusted by the answer I recieved. They said "we are a private institution and only raise our flag to half mast if a student passes away." In my region some schools refuse to raise their flag to half mast for a student without raising it to half mast for the death of a Canadian soldier. We believe that the flag's original purpose is not necessarily meant to be used to mourn everyday men and women, but more so to mourn members of our military and the death of our national and provincial leaders. But I do understand the need to raise the flag to half mast to mourn the death of a student and I believe it is alright as long as that same institution raises that same sacred flag to half mast for the men and women it represents.

Regardless of your view on the mission of Afghanistan or on the strength and size of our military the least you can do is honour our men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces. Someone said to me we should never mourn the death of a soldier except for November 11. I tell you this members of Redeemer, Remembrance Day is not just on November 11 at 11am, it is twenty four hours seven days a week three hundred and sixty-five days a year. I ask you this question: if they do not fight and die so we may live, will you? Will you spill your blood in the service of peace and humanity and protection from terrorism? Because if your not willing to support our troops then you should grab a rifle and stand in front of them.

LET US HONOUR OUR FALLEN OF AFGHANISTAN

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them Lord
And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them
May They Truly Rest In Peace

LEST WE FORGET

2008
WO. HANI MASSOUH•CPL. ERIC LABBÉ•TROOPER RICHARD RENAUD• •CPL. ÉTIENNE GONTHIER•
2007
GUNNER JONATHAN DION•CPL. NICOLAS RAYMOND BEAUCHAMP• PTE. MICHEL LEVESQUE•CPL. NATHAN HORNBURG•MAJ. RAYMOND RUCKPAUL•MWO. MARIO MERCIER•MCPL. CHRISTIAN DUCHESNE• PTE. SIMON LONGTIN•CPL. JORDAN ANDERSON•CPL. COLE BARTSCH• MCPL. COLIN BASON•CAPT. MATTHEW JOHNATHAN DAWE•CAPT. JEFFERSON FRANCIS•PTE. LANE WATKINS•CPL. STEPHEN FREDERICK BOUZANE•SGT. CHRISTOS KARIGIANNIS•PTE JOEL VINCENT WIEBE• TROOPER DARRYL CASWELL•MCPL. DARELL PRIEDE•CPL. MATTHEW MCCULLY•MCPL. ANTHONY WER•TROOPER PATRICK JAMES PENTLAND•MCPL. ALLAN STEWART•PTE. DAVID ROBERT GREENSLADE•PTE. KEVIN VINCENT KENNEDY•SGT. DONALD LUCAS• CPL. BRENT POLAND•CPL.CHRISTOPHER P. STANNIX•CPL. AARON E. WILLIAMS•CPL. KEVIN MEGENEY•
2006
CWO. ROBERT GIROUARD•CPL. ALBERT STORM•SGT. DARCY TEDFORD•PTE. BLAKE WILLIAMSON•TROOPER MARK ANDREW WILSON•SGT. CRAIG PAUL GILLAM•CPL. ROBERT THOMAS JAMES MITCHELL•PTE. JOSH KLUKIE•CPL. GLEN ARNOLD•PTE. DAVID BYERS• CPL. SHANE KEATING•CPL. KIETH MORLEY•PTE. MARK ANTHONY GRAHAM•PTE. WILLIAM JONATHAN JAMES CUSHLEY•WO. FRANK ROBERT MELLISH•WO. RICHARD FRANCIS NOLAN•SGT. SHANE STACHNIK•CPL. DAVID BRAUN•CPL. ANDREW JAMES EYKELENBOOM• MCPL. JEFFERY SCOTT WALSH•MCPL. RAYMOND ARNDT•PTE. KEVIN DALLIRE•SGT. VAUGHN INGRAM•CPL. BRYCE JEFFERY KEELER•CPL. CHRISTOPHER JONATHAN RIED•CPL. FRANCISCO GOMEZ•CPL. JASON PATRICK WARREN•CPL. ANTHONY BONECA•CAPT. NICHOLA GODDARD•CPL. MATTHEW DINNING•BOMBADIER MYLES MANSELL• CPL. PANDY PANE•LT. WILLIAM TURNER•PTE. ROBERT COSTALL•CPL. PAUL DAVIS•MCPL. TIMOTHY WILSON•DIPLOMAT GLYN BERRY•
2005
PTE. BRAUN SCOTT WOODFIELD
2004
CPL. JAMIE BRENDAN MURPHY
2003
CPL. ROBBIE CHRISTOPHER BEERENFENGER• •SGT. ROBERT ALLAN SHORT•
2002
CPL AINSWORTH DYER•PTE. RICHARD GREEN• SGT. MARC D. LEGER•PTE. NATHAN SMITH•

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vital Signs

Hollywood: A Myth or Reflection?

DR. TIMOTHY EPP
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY

1001 Movies You Must See Before You Die. Sounds like a personal challenge? That's the way I responded to this book, edited by Steven Jay Schneider and first published in 2003 (and subsequently updated in 2006). After borrowing it from the library and renewing it the maximum number of times permitted, I had been introduced to the virtues and vices of early cinema including the notorious Birth of a Nation (Griffith, 1915), The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (Wiene, 1920), The Battleship Potemkin (Eisenstein, 1925), and the films of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. My thirst for cinematic education has been fostered by the subsequent publication of 501 Movie Directors You Must Know Before You Die. While my knowledge of cinematic technique has increased only marginally, I've come to recognize the role of movies in reflecting and reproducing our society.

This is perhaps most evident in the ways that we reward cinematic efforts. The Academy Awards, now in their 80th year, constitute the most prominent and most-watched film awards ceremony in the world, with a global audience of over one billion people. Writing for the National Catholic Reporter, columnist Danny Duncan Collum once noted "In the religion of the Hollywood myth, the annual Oscar show is Easter and Christmas rolled into one." Since the first awards ceremony in 1929, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in LA have recognized excellence in motion picture making, acting, directing, and screenwriting. While the origins of the "Oscar" are cloaked in myth (Did Bette Davis name the statue for her first husband? Did the statue remind the Academy's Executive Secretary in 1931 of her uncle Oscar?), the awards are so influential that they have spawned many other awards in terms of style and format, including the Grammies (50th year!), Daytime Emmies, ACE Awards, Tonies, Obies, People's Choice, Golden Globe and American Entertainment Awards, NAACP Image and du Pont Journalism Awards. In what Collum referred to as a "high school postseason football banquet, without the chicken", the awards have set the template for their successors: a host, a podium and a long roster of celebrity presenters. The awards are a showcase for those films deemed worthy, and those involved in their creation, direction and production.

However, the appearance of meritocracy (awards for best effort) conceals some inequalities. Some films that receive awards don't stand the test of time, and some films that have widespread critical approval do not win . The awards aren't balanced in terms of film genre, either. Does anyone remember Will Ferrell's opening remarks: "you can't be in comedy if you want to get nominated." Similarly, few acting awards are given for action/ adventure films. Films that are released more recently appear to have a greater chance of being nominated than films from the beginning of the last calendar year. Consider also the current debate about the "ghettoizing" of Ratatouille to the category of Best Animated Feature, instead of considering a film that has been nominated for its screenplay, score, sound mixing, and best editing for the category of "Best Picture". This adds fuel to rumours that nominations are more the result of lobbying efforts than of the attentive viewing of Academy members. Furthermore, many of the "Foreign Film" awards go to European countries, in spite of the popularity of non-European film industries such as Bollywood. The use of the term "foreign" to designate the best non-American film, and the fact that each country is only allowed one nomination for this category are also things to make a person go "hmmm..."

So in part I agree with Collum when he writes "the Oscars appear to be really about the myth of Hollywood, paralleling the myth of the American Dream. They are a bundle of schmaltz, inspiration and contradiction that holds that honor and high purpose go hand in hand with unspeakable wealth." However, if Hollywood can serve to reproduce its own formula and agenda, it also reflects the stories and myths that we live by, and it can also serve to critique these same beliefs. This year's nominees include There Will be Blood and No Country for Old Men, which examine the violence at the root of our society; Michael Clayton, which addresses the cut-throat nature of corporate dealings, and No End in Sight, which takes a hard and critical look at the war in Iraq. To some extent, Hollywood formula prevails and these films feed our hunger for images of violence; nevertheless, they also prompt us to re-examine our beliefs, myths and values. We must also remember that Hollywood serves to some extent as a reflection of what we as an audience are willing to consume. Try to keep that in mind the next time you're dissatisfied with the offerings.

Juno Boasts Heart and Wit

SCOTT FAIRLEY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

By the time this review is published, it will be dangerously close to the presentation of the Academy Awards. As much as I'd like to be able to give an educated opinion on the likely outcome, or at least my educated opinion on the ideal outcome, I can really just give my thoughts on No Country for Old Men and Juno. Perhaps the two most dissimilar films nominated for Best Picture at this year's Oscars, the one is a grim, brooding crime drama and the other a quirky comedy about teen pregnancy. They share a medium and a language, and little else.

While it is likely that the winner of the Best Picture trophy will be No Country for Old Men, to pretend that Juno is just the token comedy nominee, much like last year's surprising (well, not to me) nomination of Little Miss Sunshine, is simply unfair. It is easily one of the best movies released this year on its own terms.

Juno is, to put it simply, four seasons in the life of Juno McGuff (played by Canadian actress Ellen Page), a16 year old girl who becomes pregnant after a mostly misguided sexual encounter with her best friend, Paulie Bleeker (Michael Cera of Arrested Development and Superbad). She decides to keep the baby after an icy reception at an abortion clinic and finds a willing couple eager to adopt her child. Of course this alone, with no hiccups along the way, would make for dull cinema, although probably uplifting. Juno verbally spars with her stepmother (Allison Janney) and attempts to assert herself as being wise beyond her years, despite being hopelessly out of her depth.

This is where Juno really shines, when Diablo Cody's script abandons Juno's impossibly finely-tuned wit and characters are free to express themselves honestly. Juno's demeanour comes across as a little phony to be sure, but it is intentionally so and when she lapses into honesty it's more satisfying after having seen her try to cover it up with pop culture know-how and snappy one-liners.

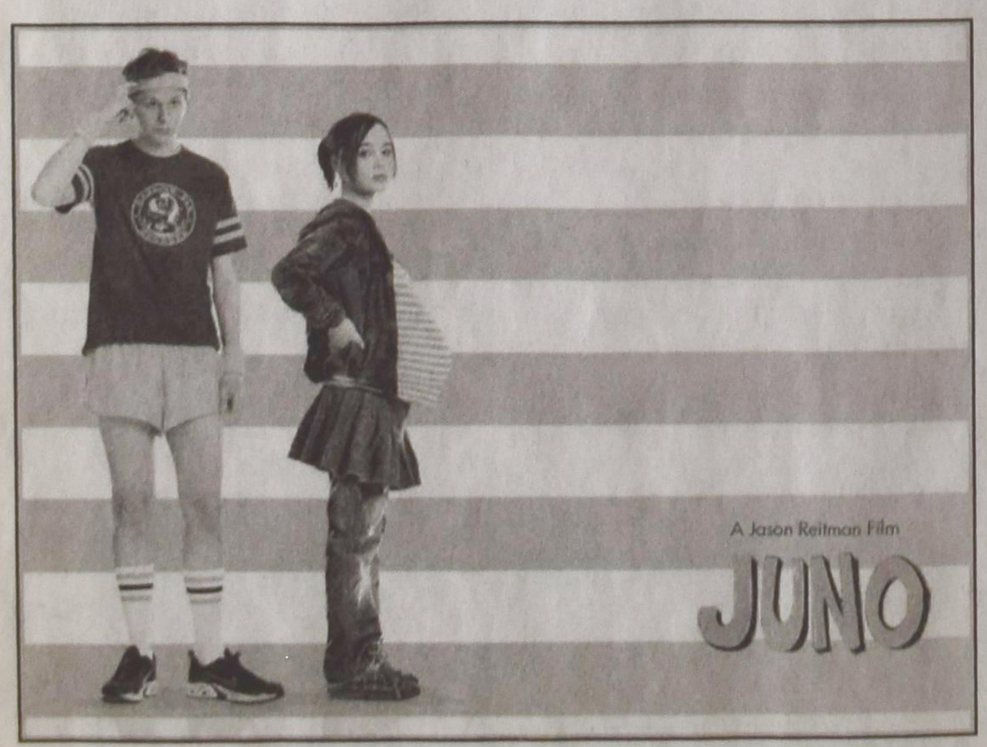
While it's clear that this movie is Ellen Page's breakout role (and rightfully so) it is far from a star vehicle. Page is incredible, sometimes approaching an uncomfortable degree of realism and detail, but the supporting cast keeps the production from being built on the foundation of one performer. J.K. Simmons, best known as J. Jonah Jameson in Sam Raimi's Spider-man series, has only a few scenes, but they're a far cry from the typical reactionary parent one would expect. Similarly, Allison Janney's turn as Juno's stepmother avoids stereotype and makes room for genuine moments.

Michael Cera and Alias's Jennifer Garner, however, are the most surprising performances. Both seemed remarkably adept at the subtlety required to keep Juno from devolving into a broad, low comedy. Cera's performance as the painfully genuine Bleeker should garner (no pun intended) him as much praise as Ellen Page's, and Garner's performance as expectant adoptive mother Vanessa is also excellent.

But it is ultimately Diablo Cody's script and Jason Reitman's confident direction that make Juno what it is. Diablo Cody is almost certain to win the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay, and it's a strong step forward for Reitman, even after a strong debut with Thank You For Smoking. It's the little moments that elevate Juno beyond a watered down Knocked Up and take it beyond it. As easy as it is to praise Juno for it's sharp wit, it's strength lies in the moments where the characters wits fail them.

But technical and artistic praise aside, if you want an accurate measurement of how much I enjoy this movie, there are few endorsements stronger than this:

I've seen it twice in theatres, and still want to see it again. It might not win the Oscar for Best Picture, but it carries more weight than most comedies and is easy to recommend.



Upcoming Events:

Jason Collett (of Broken Social Scene):
The Casbah,
Feb. 27th

The Most Serene Republic:
The Casbah,
Feb. 28th

Bruce Springsteen:
Copps Coliseum,
March 3rd

Disney's High School Musical:
The Ice Tour: Copps Coliseum,
March 14th and 15th

Caribou:
The Casbah,
March 18th

Kathleen Edwards:
Westside Concert Theatre,
March 22nd

Carrie Underwood:
Copps Coliseum,
March 22nd

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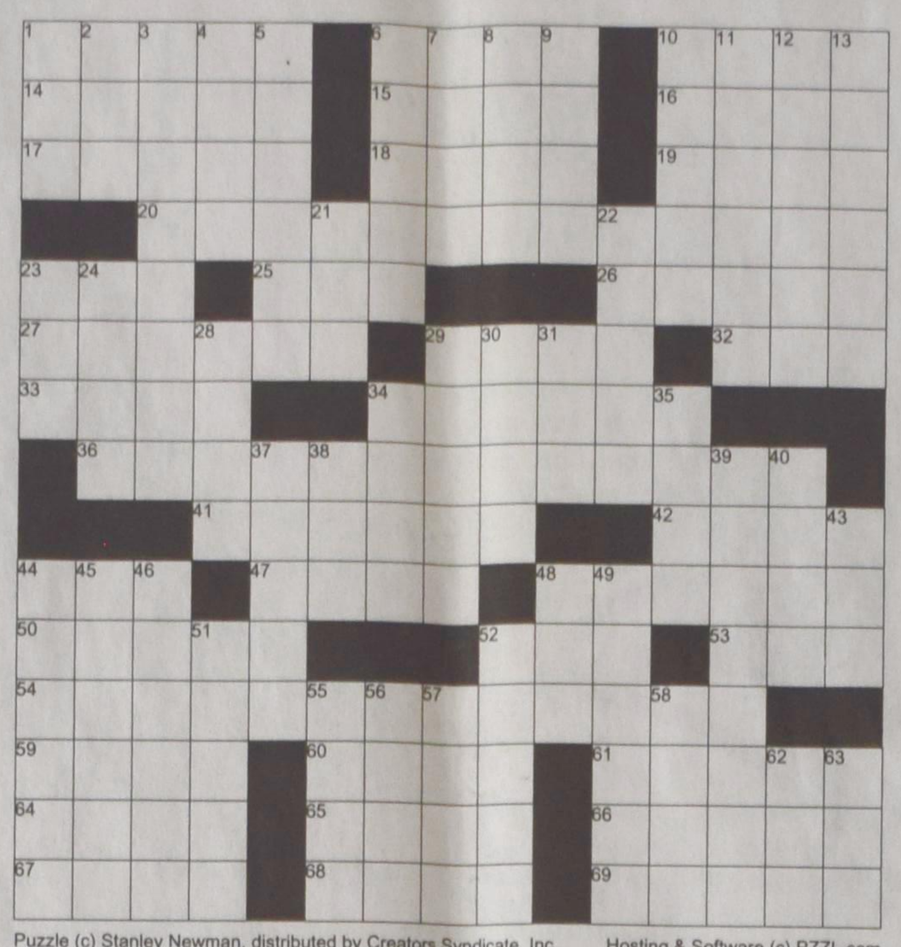
2/13/08 ANY WHICH WAY by Fred Piscop, edited by Stanley Newman



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Across

1 Kids around
6 Fight-card entry
10 Moby Dick's pursuer
14 Zagreb native
15 Lighten up on
16 Parcel (out)
17 St. Pete neighbor
18 The other side
19 Gymnast Korbut
20 "Excuse me?"
23 "Cheers" setting
25 Bard's nightfall
26 Tractor name
27 Chicken serving
29 Focal points
32 Deficit color
33 Dress of India
34 Rug, so to speak
36 Take unnecessary risks
41 Dog Star
42 Fair feature
44 Grammy category
47 11/11 honorees
48 Like angel-food cake
50 La Scala offering
52 Sculler's tool
53 Word of amazement
54 Be hammy
59 7 Down figurine
60 Verdi masterwork
61 Reef material
64 "You said it!"
65 Arduous journey
66 Form an alliance
67 Disney pooch
68 Sicilian peak
69 Is overrun

Down

1 Where rds. meet
2 Time-line division
3 Mariachi's topper
4 Dash terminus
5 Rocket sections
6 Back with bucks
7 Diamond Head island
8 Tech's customer
9 Short-term helper
10 Really go for
11 LP sleeve, for example
12 2007 Peace Nobelist
13 Conked
21 To this day
22 Parting word
23 Air-gun ammo
24 Graceful steed
28 Runs on TV
29 Aquatic plant
30 What we own
31 USN rank
34 Poke fun at
35 River of Spain
37 Adversary
38 Source of iron
39 Slips and such
40 Add fringe to
43 Needle feature
44 USPS part
45 Ideal results
46 Snuck a look
48 Cul-de-__
49 Like parts in a kit
51 Frequent Seattle forecast
52 Honshu port
55 London gallery
56 "Java" trumpeter
57 Blissful spot
58 __ of the above
62 Drive-thru convenience
63 French article

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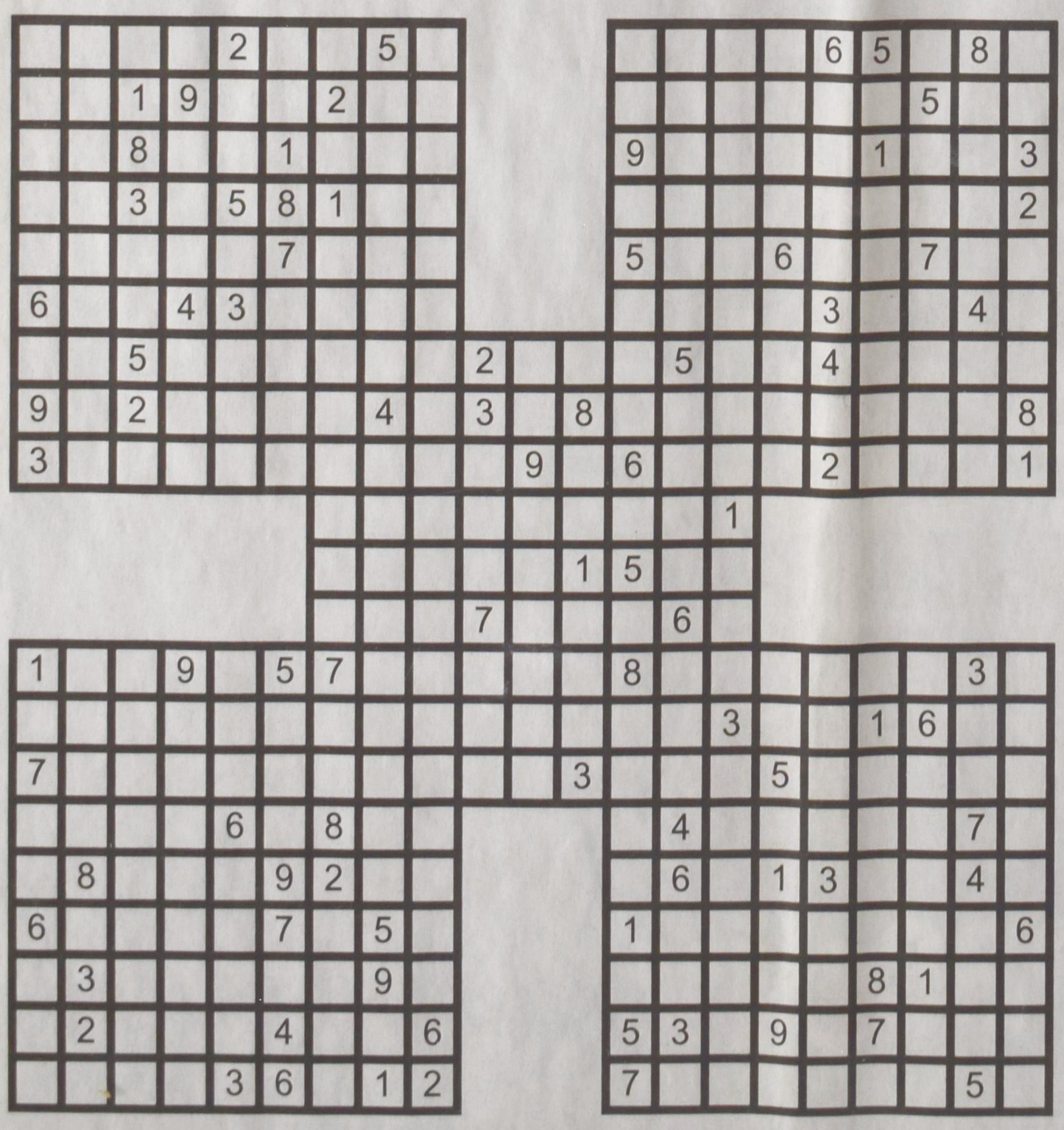

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